

Message Text

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14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP, US

SUBJ: US/SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS: SPANISH PRESS ON ROUND NINE

SUMMARY: SPANISH PRESS REPORTING AND COMMENT FOLLOWING ROUND NINE (AUG 18-21) GENERALLY TAKES LINE THAT THIS ROUND PRODUCED LITTLE PROGRESS ON MAIN ISSUES. DESPITE INDICATION DURING ROUND NINE THAT SPANISH DELEGATION CHIEF ROVIRA MIGHT HOLD BACKGROUNDER FOR SPANISH PRESS, NONE WAS HELD OVER WEEKEND. NOR IS THERE INFO YET IN SPANISH PRESS REGARDING CONSIDERATION GIVEN BASE NEGOTIATIONS AT AUG 22 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. MOST OF HARD INFO AVAILABLE TO SPANISH PRESS THEREFORE DERIVES FROM AMB. MCCLOSKEY'S BACKGROUNDER FOR U.S. AND OTHER FOREIGN PRESS ON AUG 22. THIS UNFORTUNATELY IS COUPLED WITH LOCAL RUMORS AND DISTORTION ON SEVERAL POINTS OF SUBSTANCE, ALSO WITH ATTRIBUTION TO U.S. SOURCES. UPI STORY ON BACKGROUNDER IS CARRIED IN FULL BY ONE DAILY WITH DIRECT ATTRIBUTION TO MCCLOSKEY. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES, WE INTEND TO SAY ONLY THAT GOS

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OFFICIALS WERE AWARE IN ADVANCE OF MCCLOSKEY'S INTENT TO

HOLD BACKGROUNDER AUG 22, AND THAT REPORTS APPEARING IN SPANISH PRESS ATTRIBUTED TO U.S. OFFICIAL SOURCES CONTAIN NUMBER OF INACCURACIES. END SUMMARY

1. ROUND NINE WAS HELD AGAINST BACKGROUND OF REPORTS IN SPANISH PRESS CLAIMING (A) THAT GOS HAD ASKED THAT ALL BASES EXCEPT ROTA BE GIVEN UP (LOGOS AGENCY AND REUTERS, IN LATTER CASE WITH ATTRIBUTION TO SPANISH DIPLOMATIC SOURCE); (B) ALTERNATIVELY THAT MORON AND/OR ZARAGOZA WERE LIKELY TO BE CLOSED (EUROPA PRESS); (C) FURTHER, THAT PRIME MINISTER ARIAS WOULD POSSIBLY MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN THE FALL TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT; AND (D) THAT THE U.S. WAS DRAGGING ITS HEELS, PREFERRING NOT TO FIRM UP BASE ARRANGEMENT UNTIL AFTER NOVEMBER 1976 ELECTIONS (ABC'S PEDRO CRESPO). THERE WAS ALSO MORE ACCURATE DETAILING OF SPANISH NEGOTIATING POSITION THAN HERETOFORE HAD BEEN THE CASE (BY "ARRIBA'S" NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT, FELIX ORTEGA). MOST REPORTS PICTURED SPANISH POSITION AS TOUGH, BUT LARGELY MAINTAINED PAST OPTIMISM THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED. SOME PREDICTED EXTENSION OF PRESENT AGREEMENT TO ALLOW NEGOTIATORS MORE TIME.

2. TITLES OF ARTICLES FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF THIS ROUND MIRRORED THE GENERAL CONCLUSION THAT THE ROUND PRODUCED LITTLE PROGRESS ON THE MAIN ISSUES, AS WELL AS CONFUSION ON PART OF SPANISH JOURNALISTS: "NO SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS" ("INFORMACIONES", "PUEBLO"); "THERE WILL BE AN EXTENSION OF THE (PRESENT) AGREEMENT" (ABC); "SENATE WON'T SIGN A NEW SECURITY GUARANTEE" ("ARRIBA"); "SPAIN WANTS A MILITARY SECURITY TREATY WITH U.S." ("YA"); "NO DEAL WITH MADRID (UNTIL TURKISH BASE ISSUE SETTLED)" ("ARRIBA" - FELIX ORTEGA).

3. ONLY REFERENCE TO BASE NEGOTIATIONS IN REPORTING ON AUG 22 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WAS BRIEF NOTE THAT SPANISH MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM TOLD PRESS AFTERWARDS IN COURSE OF INTERVIEW THAT ONE COULD NOT TALK YET IN TERMS OF EITHER EXTENSION OR NON-EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT.

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4. NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S DAILY, "ARRIBA", CARRIED FULL TEXT OF UPI STORY FILED HERE BY PETER UEBERSAX ON AUG 22 COVERING MCCLOSKEY BACKGROUNDER, AND IDENTIFIED MCCLOSKEY AS SOURCE. LEAD OF THIS STORY HAD U.S. OFFICIAL STATING TALKS "WILL MISS THE DEADLINE SET FOR THEIR COMPLETION... (BUT) I AM CONFIDENT WE WILL FIND A WAY TO EXTEND IT UNTIL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED." OTHER POINTS WHICH

SPANISH PRESS GENERALLY STRESSED WERE SENATE'S UNWILLINGNESS TO UNDERWRITE NEW SECURITY GUARANTEES, ABSENCE YET OF ANY DECISION ON WHICH FACILITIES TO BE RETAINED BY U.S., AND POSSIBILITY OF MEETING BETWEEN CORTINA AND THE SECRETARY AT UNGA IN SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER. MENTION BY UPI, WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION, OF \$1.5-2 BILLION PRICE TAG FOR SPANISH "WISH LIST" WAS NOT PLAYED UP IN SPANISH PRESS.. MADRID DAILY "PUEBLO" CARRIED WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY UPI STORY, BUT WITH NEW YORK DATELINE, AS STATEMENT MADE BY MCCLOSKEY AFTER RETURN TO U.S. EMBELLISHING FURTHER, EUROPA PRESS AGENCY ADDED (WITH ATTRIBUTION TO "U.S. OFFICIAL") THAT U.S. DECISIONS ON BASES NOT DEFINITIVE SINCE MANDATE OF FORD ADMINISTRATION ABOUT TO EXPIRE, AND (WITH ATTRIBUTION TO "U.S. SOURCES IN MADRID") AN "UNOFFICIAL REPORT" THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD MAKE A TECHNICAL STOP AT TORREJON AIR BASE ON RETURN FROM MIDDLE EAST, WHERE HE WOULD BE MET BY CORTINA; THAT FAILING THIS THEY WOULD MEET ELSEWHERE IN NEXT 10-15 DAYS, INDEPENDENTLY OF ANY MEETING AT UNGA TOWARD END OF SEPTEMBER.

5. ATTRIBUTIONS TO SPANISH SOURCES WERE SCARCE. AFTERNOON DAILY "INFORMACIONES" HAD "INFORMED UNOFFICIAL SPANISH SOURCES" SAYING THAT THE SPANISH POSTURE CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF INSISTENCE ON CUTTING OF USE OF ALL BASES EXCEPT ROTA. SEVERAL PAPERS AGAIN TOOK GOS TO TASK FOR ABSENCE OF ACCESS TO INFORMED OFFICIAL OPINION. TWO MAJOR DAILIES, "ABC" AND "YA" HAVE CARRIED EDITORIALS. THE FORMER CALLS FOR CLOSING OF ZARAGOZA, FOR REASONS OF SPANISH PRIDE, AS BASE MOST INVOLVED WITH NATO-RELATED FUNCTIONS. LAHZER TAKES LINE THAT TOUGH POSITION ON CLOSING OF U.S. ACCESS TO BASES REFLECTS SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION, PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE OF JUST COMPENSATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR GREAT RISK TO SPAIN IN HAVING BASES HERE. IT ADDS THAT EXTENSION OF PRESENT AGREEMENT WHILE NEGOTIATIONS GO ON IS NOT IN SPANISH INTEREST. STABLER

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